New-England VINDICATED,

From the *Unjust Aſperſions* caſt on the former *Government* there, by ſome late

CONSIDERATIONS,

Pretending to Shew,

That the Charters *in thoſe Colonies were Taken from them on Account of their Deſtroying the* Manufactures *and* Navigation *of* England.

WE ſhall pretermit what the *Conſiderators* have in their *Scandalous Libel* related concerning other Plantations, and only take notice of what concerns *New-England*. And in the firſt place they affirm,

That hundreds of Ships have been Employed to tranſport thence Tobacco, Sugars, Wooll and other Materials for Manufactures, into France, Holland; *and to import thence into* New-England, *Linnen, Woollen and all other Manufactures.*

This at firſt View will appear a great Untruth to all that know *New-England*; for that Countrey can hardly expend the Goods that are yearly Exported from hence thither, the Number of the People conſidered; nor have they any other way to vend ſo great a quantity of Goods as ſuch a Number of Ships muſt neceſſarily Import: Nor have they Commodities

to Export fit for thoſe parts, nor could they (all things conſidered) purchaſe Goods thence on ſo eaſie terms as they may have them from *England*. And they have made a *Law againſt Exporting of Wooll*, not having a twentieth part of what is neceſſary for their own Uſe. The moſt of their Shipping is employed in tranſporting Lumber, Horſes and Proviſions to *Jamaica*, *Barbados*, and the *Caribbee Iſlands*, without which thoſe Iſlands cannot well ſubſiſt: And many Veſſels are built there upon Account of Merchants in *London*, ſent home, and by them often ſold or employed here: And to prevent Illegal practices, they made in the Year 1663. a Law, That *the Act of Navigation* ſhould be ſtrictly obſerved; and their Governours have been carefull to ſee it Executed, and are yearly Sworn ſo to doe; nor can it be proved, that the leaſt Breach of it was ever allowed by the Government, which is not to be blamed for the private Tranſgreſſions of ſome few particular perſons.

As for what the *Conſiderators* report, concerning the Manner of Vacating the Charter of the *Maſſachuſets* Colony, the Matter is by them fallaciouſly repreſented. When a *Quo Warranto* was in the Year 1683. iſſued out againſt them, with the Notification thereof: By the then Kings Order were ſent over one hundred Copies of the proceedings againſt the Charter of *London*, and two hundred Copies of a Declaration, to be diſperſed among the People in *New-England*, diſcharging the Inhabitants from all Rates and Contributions towards the Expence of the ſaid Suit, and enjoyning thoſe particular Perſons mentioned in the *Quo Warranto*, to make their Defence at their own particular Charge, without any help by a publick Stock.

Nevertheleſs the Governour and Company appointed an Attorney to Anſwer to the *Quo Warranto* in the Court of *Kings Bench*; where it was let fall, and a new Suit Began by *Scire Facias* in Court of *Chancery*, and Judgment entred againſt them for Default in not Appearing: Whereas, conſidering the Remoteneſs of *New-England* from *Weſtminſter*, it was impoſſible for them to Appear in the time allowed, and ſo by a Surprize their Charter was taken from them.

As to what is objected about *Coyning*, many Goldſmiths in *Lon-*

London can testifie, that the Money coyned in *New-England* is as good as that of *England*, and not of a *baser Allay*, (as is suggested.) It was formerly customary for private Persons in *England* to Coyn Farthings for their own Use, and the Coyning in *Massachusets* Colony was little more than that, and with Design to prevent the great Injuries Merchants and others sustained by base *Spanish* Money: And the Mint was set up in 1652. when there was no King in *England*, but the Government out of Course; and when the ancient Government of *England* was resettled, and the Kings mind to the contrary signified to them, they resolved to comply therewith, though many wayes disadvantageous to themselves. Was not the Value of Coyn altered in *Pensilvania?* Did not the Lord *Baltimore* in *Maryland*, Coyn Money with his own Image on one side, and his Coat of Arms on the other? Did not the *East-India* Company? But when they understood ther Error, they petitioned the King for liberty of Coynage, and pardon of what was past, and it was granted them? Why then should *New-England* be esteemed more criminal than other Plantations?

The *Considerators* go on, and complain, That in *New-England* they have *Imposed Taxes upon Shipping and the Manufactures of* England *coming into those parts.* There hath been *none* Imposed on Shipping but *Powder-Money*, and not half so much as is done in the other Plantations, nor any upon the Manufactures of *England* particularly, but only one penny upon Twenty shillings Value of all Merchandizes whatsoever, as on all other Estates in the Countrey; and since Charters were taken from them, the same and more hath been levied by the present Governour, besides six times the Fees upon Shipping more than was paid formerly: All which hath been done by him without any consent of the People, or their Representatives, which the former Government never practised.

Whereas it is maliciously insinuated, That the *Massachusets* have Imposed an Oath of Fidelity to their Common-wealth, we shall only in Answer Insert the Copy of the Oath, as it is in their printed Law-book.

WHereas I [A. B.] *am an Inhabitant within this Jurisdiction, considering how I ſtand Obliged to the Kings Majeſty, his Heirs and Succeſſors, by our Charter and the Government Eſtabliſhed thereby: Do Swear accordingly by the great and dreadful Name of the Ever-living God, that I will bear Faith and true Allegiance to our Sovereign Lord the King, his Heirs and Succeſſors; and that I will be True and Faithfull to this Government, and accordingly yield Aſſiſtance thereunto, with my Perſon and Eſtate, as in Equity I am bound.*

And will alſo truly endeavour to Maintain and Preſerve all the Liberties and Priviledges thereof, Submitting my ſelf unto the wholſom Laws made and eſtabliſhed by the ſame.

And farther, That I will not Plot or Practiſe any evil againſt it, or conſent to any that ſhall ſo do; but will timely diſcover and reveal the ſame to Lawful Authority now here Eſtabliſhed, for the ſpeedy preventing thereof. So help me God in our Lord Jeſus Chriſt.

Nor know we that they have (as is aſſerted) *Encroached upon their Neighbouring Colonies in a hoſtile manner*, except it be meant of their Aſſiſting with Voluntiers when King *Charles* the Second ſent to take *Monhatas*, now called *New-York*; or of their Concurrence in taking from the *French*, S. *Johns*, *Penobſcot*, *Port Royal*, which were put into the hands of thoſe that were then in Power in *England*.

Nor have they (as is alledged) *Affronted the Commiſſioners of King* Charles *the Second*; whoſe Commiſſion (as to the legal part of it, not by them duly obſerved) was in ſome particulars Illegal and Arbitrary, and Empowred them to *Hear and determine all Cauſes* (not by Law, but) *according to their ſound Diſcretion*; which could not be ſubmitted to by the *Maſſachuſets*, without giving up at once their Charter and Priviledges.

Neither have they *made Laws againſt all Opinions in Religion, excepting thoſe of the Congregational Churches, and more eſpecially againſt the Church of* England. It muſt be acknowledged, that there have been ſome ſevere and unjuſtifiable Laws there, in mat-

long since sensible; yet what is here affirmed, is untrue; for *Presbyterians* have equal Encouragement with those of the *Congregational perswasion*: Nor are there any *Laws against the Church of* England, as is falsly and malitiously pretended. Let them prove if they can, that any number of Men inclined to worship God, in the way of the Church of *England*, were denyed by the Government in *New-England* liberty so to do. The Magistrates there have often professed, that they would not hinder any that were so principled from practising what they did most approve of.

As for their *Treating ill the Captains of the Kings Ships for desiring Permission to recruit themselves with Men and Victuals; and as to entertaining of Pirats*: These things are like the former. If any Commanders of Ships have behaved themselves Insolently, and violated the Laws of God and the Land, it became the Government to testifie against them; but malice it self cannot deny, that the People of *New-England* have been extreamly Civil to Strangers, and especially to such as the King hath put any mark of Honour upon; and they have sometimes relieved, and that *Gratis*, the Kings Ships distressed through want of Provision: And if any *Pirats* have been entertained, it hath been because they were not known to be such; for they made a particular Law against Piracy, agreeable to the Law of *England*, on account whereof some have been there Executed.

The *Considerators* tell us, that the People of *New-England* are *free from all Taxes, and Contribute nothing to the Crown, nor their own Protection or Support*: Whereas they are no more free than other Plantations, for they pay Customs in the Plantations for the Goods they fetch thence into *New-England*; and when those Goods are brought into *England*, they pay the same a second time; so that they Contribute not a little to the Crown. Before the change of their Government, they never did put the Crown to a penny Charge for their Protection or Support: but since that, have been very chargeable, and less beneficial to the Crown.

It is strange, that the Considerators should have the Impudence to publish to the World, *That the People of New-England in General, are better satisfied with the present Government there, and do*

not

All the Charters of *New-England*, one only excepted, are still in force; there having been no Judgment against them, nor Surrender of them made or Recorded; and by their Charters they have Power to choose their own Governours and Magistrates, as much as any Towns Corporate, or Cities here in *England*, have Power to choose their own Maior and Aldermen. Besides, must those Colonies in *New-England*, be the only ones excepted from Indempnity, and all other Corporations supposed to have been without fault? And must they alone remain sorrowful for the loss of what is so valuable to them? who at their own vast Charges, and great Hazards subdued a Wilderness, and with the loss of many hundreds of their Lives, have maintained and defended it, to the enlargment of the Kings Dominions; hoping, as in Reason they might, that their Posterity should enjoy the benefit thereof? So that to deprive them of their Charters, is to deal more hardly, than to do the like with any Bodies Politick in *England*.

As to the other Pamphlet newly come forth, called, *An Abstract of Laws in* New-England, *not agreeable with the Laws of* England. The first Law they take notice of, is a Fiction of their own, the rest were most of them long since repealed; yea, all that were inconvenient, or esteemed repugnant to the Laws of *England*, and the *Considerators* (whom we must needs suppose to be the Authors of the Abstract) if ever they read the *New-England* Laws, could not be ignorant that the Word *Common-wealth*, so much complain'd of, was repealed and obliterated, and the Word *Jurisdiction* inserted instead of it.

As for the Remarks which they make thereon, they are nothing else but the Ebullitions of a spiteful Spirit, and so notoriously false, as that we think it not worth the while to recite, much less to refute them.

FINIS.